

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 3, 2002

LB 1139

inside the administration. I think the department has wanted to do that without regard to political party. We have had governors who have been very adamant about not adding FTEs from across the political spectrum so as to have government not grow. We're close to being at the place where there's just (laugh) there's...there's so much work and so few people. I'm going to...and if that's the case, I'm going to take our limited resources and I'm going to most use them in the areas where we do regulate and claim to be the regulator of last resort as we do in the practice of insurance. With that, let me yield the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler because I can see that I've probably pricked his conscience and his imagination and he probably...even now is probably formulating a question in that broad and high brow of his. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator, you have three and a half minutes if you'd like.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would like. The...starting from where Senator Landis left off, I think it's a very sad comment about government if the manager of your executive branch or your government squeezes down the number of workers in a regulatory department to the extent that they're not able to do or perform their regulatory function. As you well know, Senator Landis, and the Department of Insurance, the cost of the regulatory function is costed back against the industry, as it should be. And I would think that good management, whether you're a Republican or a Democrat, would be supplying enough people to do a reasonable regulatory job. And, you know, part of the initial response from the Department of Insurance on this escrow episode that we had was, well, gee, we just don't have enough people to do that. And for years before that, they used to tell the title industry, well, you're just a little kid here. The big insurance companies are the people we have to watch out for, and that's where we need to put our resources, and we don't have a lot. But I don't buy that. And I think this recent example of the State Title matter indicates why we should not buy that because there are a lot of people who have been hurt. Going back to the MEWA, I guess the big concern I have is that people who are in these self employed plans, what expectations do they have? Do they expect that this is an insurance plan? They